



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

[Handwritten signature]

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,496	02/12/2001	Toshiyuki Arai	7217/63764	6798
530	7590	01/23/2008	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRÜMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			BURGESS, BARBARA N	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2157		
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		01/23/2008		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/781,496	ARAI, TOSHIYUKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Barbara N. Burgess	2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8, 20 and 22-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8, 20, 22-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Request for Continuation Examination (RCE) filed October 29, 2007. Claims 1-8, 20, 22-28 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8, 20, 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klug et al. (hereinafter "Klug", US 6,823,327 B1) in view of Bezos et al. (hereinafter "Bezos", US Patent 6,029,141).

As per claim 1, Klug discloses an information processing apparatus terminal device, said information processing apparatus capable of transmitting to a terminal device information concerning at least one apparatus that is external to said information processing apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

- receiving means for receiving, after the terminal device has accessed said information processing apparatus, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain information by which the terminal device may access the external apparatus(column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41);
- user identifier generating means for generating identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to request signal (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);

Art Unit: 2157

- generation source identifier storage means storing a generation source identifier, the generation source identifier identifying said information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier (column 2, lines 13-15, 40-50);
- first transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the external apparatus to enable the external apparatus to record the user identifier and the generation source identifier as associated entries in a database (column 2, lines 47-51, column 5, lines 3-5, 23-26, 35-41);
- second transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the terminal device to enable the terminal device to request access to the external apparatus by sending the user identifier to the external apparatus and to enable the external apparatus to use the user identifier, the generation source identifier, and the database to identify the terminal device as being introduced by said information processing apparatus (column 2, lines 7-10, 13-15, 37-45, column 11, lines 8-13, 43-50).

Klug does not explicitly disclose:

- A generation source identifier assigned to said information processing apparatus by the external apparatus.

However, in an analogous art, Bezos teaches a system that enables businesses (associates) to market products in return for a commission that are sold from a merchant's web site. The associate grants the merchant a unique associate ID. This ID is used when linking to the associate's website (Abstract, column 16, lines 64-67, column 17, lines 5, 10-13).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Bezos's assigning a source identifier by the external apparatus in Klug's apparatus allowing the task of marketing the merchant's products to be efficiently distributed among entities that have established reputations and exposure.

As per claim 2, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according claim 1, wherein the request signal received by said receiving means is a request for the information processing apparatus to issue a user password, the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier (column 2, lines 13-31).

As per claim 3, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according claim 2, wherein said receiving means includes means for receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device (column 1, lines 47-60).

As per claim 4, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the user password and the introduction password used for accessing homepage information contained within the external apparatus, identifies the homepage information the information processing apparatus to the external apparatus (column 2, lines 5-25, column 4, lines 24-33, column 5, lines 1-7, 18-25).

As per claim 5, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising individual information storage means for storing the received individual information (column 5, lines 14-17, 29-31, 35-38).

As per claim 6, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said user identifier generating means generates the user password in association with the received individual information, and then transfers the user password to the individual information storage means which stores the user password in association with the individual information (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41, column 11, lines 8-13, 43-50).

As per claim 7, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generation source identifier stored by said generation identifier storage means identifies homepage information (column 5, lines 14-17, 29-31, 35-38).

As per claim 8, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the generation service identifier storage means stores an introduction password as the generation source (column 5, lines 14-17, 29-31, 35-38).

As per claim 20, Klug discloses an information processing method comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2157

- receiving, at a first information processing apparatus after the first information processing apparatus is accessed by a terminal device, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain information by which the terminal device may access at least another apparatus that is external to the first information processing apparatus (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41);
- generating, at the first information processing apparatus, a user identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to the request signal (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);
- storing, at the first information processing apparatus, a generation source identifier identifying the first information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);
- transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the external apparatus, the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the external apparatus to enable the external apparatus to record the user identifier and the generation source identifier as associated entries in a database (column 2, lines 47-51, column 5, lines 3-5, 23-26, 35-41);
- transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the terminal device, the user identifier and the generation source identifier to enable the terminal device, to request access to the external apparatus by sending the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the external apparatus and to enable the external apparatus to use the user identifier, the generation source identifier, and the database to identify the terminal device as being introduced by the first information

Art Unit: 2157

processing apparatus (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41, column 9, lines 45-67, column 11, lines 8-13, 43-50).

Klug does not explicitly disclose:

- A generation source identifier assigned to said information processing apparatus by the external apparatus.

However, in an analogous art, Bezos teaches a system that enables businesses (associates) to market products in return for a commission that are sold from a merchant's web site. The associate grants the merchant a unique associate ID. This ID is used when linking to the associate's website (Abstract, column 16, lines 64-67, column 17, lines 5, 10-13).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Bezos's assigning a source identifier by the external apparatus in Klug's apparatus allowing the task of marketing the merchant's products to be efficiently distributed among entities that have established reputations and exposure.

As per claim 22, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the request from the terminal device is a request to issue a user password identifying a user operating the terminal device and to issue an introduction password, the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier (column 2, lines 5-30).

As per claim 23, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 22, wherein said receiving step includes receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device (column 4, lines 20-30).

As per claim 24, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 23, wherein the user password and the introduction password are used for accessing homepage information contained within the external apparatus, and the introduction password identifies the homepage information of the information processing apparatus to the external apparatus (column 10, 10-35).

As per claim 25, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 23, further comprising:
storing the received individual information (column 8, lines 40-55).

As per claim 26, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 25, wherein said generating step includes generating the user password in association with the received individual information and storing the user password in association with the individual information (column 4, lines 30-60).

As per claim 27, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the stored generation source identifier identifies homepage information (column 5, lines 23-40).

As per claim 28, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 27, wherein an introduction password is stored as the generation source identifier (column 6, lines 5-37).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Office notes the following argument(s):

- (a) Klug and Bezos do not disclose or suggest transmitting a user identifier and a generation source identifier to the external apparatus to enable the external apparatus to record the user identifier and generation source identifier as associated in entries in a database.
- (b) Klug and Bezos do not disclose or suggest using the user identifier, and the generation source identifier, and the database to identify the terminal device as being introduced by said information processing apparatus.

In response:

- (a) Klug teaches the registrar website (information processing apparatus) sending the third party website (external apparatus) the user's registration information (user identifier and generation source identifier). This information includes registrar user identification, password, city of residence, family size, etc). This information is sent to third party websites that the user would like to communicate with. The third party website (external apparatus) stores the registration information (user identifier and generation source identifier) in database (column 5, lines 2-5, 23-26, 35-40).

Art Unit: 2157

Therefore, Klug without a doubt discloses transmitting a user identifier and a generation source identifier to the external apparatus to enable the external apparatus to record the user identifier and generation source identifier as associated in entries in a database.

(b) Klug teaches the registrar's website (information processing apparatus) supplying the user (terminal device) with a registrar user identifier and password so that the user is able to register with other third party websites. The identifier lets the third party websites know that further information can be received from the registrar's website where the user initially registered (column 2, lines 40-50, column 6, lines 2-15, column 10, lines 3-10).

Bezo further teaches the merchant's website (external apparatus) receiving referral information (user identifier, source identifier) to identify the customer (terminal device) and associate (information processing apparatus) that was the source of the referral. This information is used to give the referring associate credit for a sale that results from the customer contacting the merchant website (column 2, lines 1-10, column 7, lines 21-34).

Therefore, Klug and Bezos indeed discloses using the user identifier, and the generation source identifier, and the database to identify the terminal device as being introduced by said information processing apparatus.

Conclusion

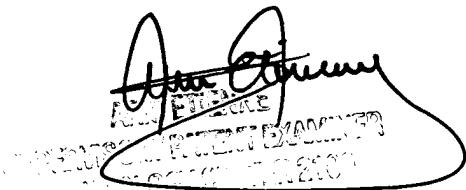
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Ettinene can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

January 21, 2008



A handwritten signature of "Barbara N. Burgess" is written over a circular official USPTO stamp. The stamp contains the text "U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" around the perimeter and "SEARCHED" and "SERIALIZED" in the center.